NRCS Natural Resources Conservation Service

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

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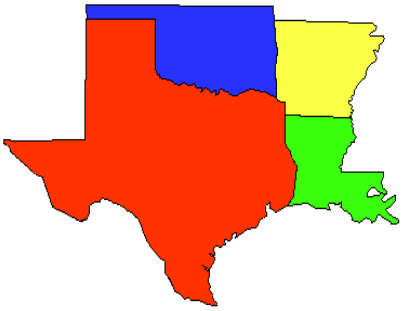

REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY FRAMEWORK PLAN:

THE STRUCTURE FOR CARRYING OUT TECHNOLOGY DELIVERY AND SUPPORT TO THE FIELD

PREFACE

This Framework Plan was prepared to establish how the delivery of technology will occur in the South Central Region. Beginning in March 1999, the structure for the delivery of technology in NRCS changed. Each region has established a Regional Technology Work Group that is responsible for carrying out technology transfer and training to support field needs.

As with any new organizational structure, there are a number of new terms and processes that need to be communicated throughout the agency. The new technology delivery system includes work groups, state contacts, discipline networks, network sponsors, task teams, and task team leaders; to name a few of the new terms. Our hope is that all employees and partners will become familiar with the new technology structure and the terms used in this Framework Plan.

It is imperative that everyone clearly understands how the processes of technology transfer and training works in the South Central Region. We all must play an active role in improving the delivery of technical assistance in NRCS.

We, the South Central Region Leadership Team, fully support and commit to the implementation of this Technology Framework Plan.

/s/

Humberto Hernandez
Regional Conservationist
South Central Region

/s/
John Burt
State Conservationist, Texas

/s/
Darrel Dominick
State Conservationist, Oklahoma

/s/
Don Gohmert
State Conservationist, Louisiana

/s/
Kalven Trice
State Conservationist, Arkansas

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INTRODUCTION

This Regional Technology Framework Plan is designed to describe how technology will be delivered in the South Central Region. It contains the functions, guiding principles, and priorities agreed upon within the region. It identifies the structure of technology support, the division of responsibilities, and the purposes of Work Group members and liaisons.

The delivery of high quality technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, and other customers by NRCS field personnel has created a legacy of land stewardship and natural resource conservation. The application of proven science and technology in the planning and installation of conservation practices and systems is why the public values NRCS' role in natural resource conservation. This technology framework plan expresses a commitment to maintaining and continuously improving NRCS capacity to deliver technical services.

In order to deliver the needed technical services, NRCS needs a technology development, transfer, and support structure that ensures the best technology is available to field employees and partners. Technical functions were assigned to states with the reorganization of 1994 and the closing of the National Technical Centers. Each region established a technology infrastructure to deliver support and assistance to field offices. However, the structure was fragmented and a new national technology re-engineering process was started and launched in March of 1999. The new structure is designed to connect state technology needs with Centers and Institutes that are charged with responsibility for technology development and acquisition to be used by field delivery system.

The national components of the technology delivery system include responsibilities for officials at the regional and state office levels. Each Regional Conservationist has established a Regional Technical Work Group (RTWG) with representatives from each state to coordinate field office technical needs and provide support for specialized technology needs. In addition, Regional Conservationists have designated a Regional Technology Specialist (RTS) to provide leadership in the region for implementation of technology action plans and monitor field office technical support needs.

State Conservationists have designated a State Technology Contact to ensure field level technology needs are being met and that technical information is reaching field employees. State Technology Contacts are also charged with the responsibility of monitoring technology and training in the states and make recommendations on technical

staffing needs to the State Conservationists. Specialists from NRCS Centers and Institutes are assigned as liaisons to each Regional Technology Work Group.

HOW TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER WORKS IN THE SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Technology can be defined as the tools needed to support our efforts to protect and support SWAPA+H as they function in the ecosystem. Technology can include new and basic research, new methodologies, field trials supported by follow-up and reports, training, and new or existing equipment. To help its employees and customers maintain a high quality of technical assistance, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) must maintain and support a process of technology transfer that is efficient and timely.

The need for technology can begin at any level of the Agency. The field or state office may receive a request for technology, or the state office may determine that a specific skill or technology is needed. Through information exchange, the Regional Technology Work Group (RTWG) may determine that a certain technology is needed. Additionally, the Regional Leadership Team (RLT) through an evaluation of existing skills or technologies, may determine that a certain technology is needed to implement an existing or emerging program. Finally, the National Technology Transfer and Training Working Group (TTTWG) may determine certain skills or technologies are necessary to maximize efficiency or implement a program.

The following information identifies how technology needs are elevated to the appropriate level within NRCS:

- A need for a certain technology is generated from field staffs, clients, or partners.

- The request for technology is elevated to the state office level. The state office technical staff should be able to respond to most questions, either from within the state or through consultants.

- If a certain technology is not available at the state level, the need is elevated to the Regional Technology Work Group (RTWG). The role of the RTWG is to respond to technology needs on a regional scale. Working with the Regional Leadership Team (RLT), the RTWG provides for technology and makes recommendations to the RLT for region-wide technology development and transfer. The South Central Region RTWG also interacts with other regional RTWG's to share and transfer technology.

- For national programs or complex technology, the RTWG with guidance from the Regional Leadership Team assists, provides input, or elevates the need for technology to the National Technology Transfer and Training Working Group. This group can provide technology in two ways – either through technology training or technology development.

- Training needs are elevated from the National Technology Transfer and Training Working Group, through the National Employee Development Board, to the National Employee Development Center. Technology training is assembled and packaged for delivery to the field.

- Should the need for new technology or adaptation of existing technology be necessary, the National Technology Transfer and Training Working Group may direct Institutes or Centers, or contract with universities or consultants to develop the needed technology. Upon completion, the information is provided to the states. Should training be required to properly implement the new technology, the National Technology Transfer and Training Working Group can direct the previously explained training process.

Technical materials and guides that are developed in the South Central Region will be distributed to the State and field offices using the established agency directive system. Technical guides and products will be properly coded and distributed using the NRCS primary subject title numbers and symbols, i.e. Ecological Science, 190 – ECS. Furthermore, technical materials will be filed with existing Handbooks and manuals and will be distributed with proper handbook notices, updated directive tabulation sheet (as appropriate) and concise filing instructions. These processes will help to ensure that technical documents are properly filed and can be accessed and referenced at field offices over the useable life span of the material.

PRIMARY TECHNICAL FUNCTIONS OF THE RTWG

The following represents a summary of the primary technical functions of South Central Regional Technology Work Group (RTWG):

- Coordinate technical assistance at the field level to assure that technology delivered meets customer expectations, management priorities, and agency requirements.
- Coordinate technical support activities to assure they are consistent, legal, and technically correct.
- Assist in determining technology transfer and training needs to assure that the NRCS and partnership workforce continues to be recognized as experts in natural resources planning and application.
- Assure that available and needed technology is delivered to specialists and field staffs.
- Coordinate technology needs at the field level by working through the South Central Region State Conservationists and state technical specialists.
- Facilitate the development of high priority and mission critical technology.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE WORK GROUP

In order to carry out this plan, members of the Regional Technology Work Group (RTWG) in the South Central Region operate according to the following set of principles to assure that the appropriate technology is made available to the field, our partners, and our clients:

- Assure that everything we do is focused toward providing information and support needed in the field to implement the conservation planning and implementation process.
- Use the regional strategic plan and communication with management to identify priority issues.
- Develop a technology action plan annually to coordinate priority technology action items to be accomplished in the region. This Plan will highlight the priority technical tasks that are identified by the Regional Leadership Team.
- Empower, support, and sponsor those staffs responsible for technology delivery and assist them to accomplish technology objectives.

- Stress teamwork and collaboration including communications with the Regional Advisory Board (RAB).

- Establish good communications with institutes and centers, cooperating scientists, as well as state technology support staffs in other states and regions.

- Commit to sharing and working together to reduce the duplication of effort and inconsistencies across state and regional boundaries.

- Keep the RAB informed on major technical task issues being addressed by the RTWG and confer with them as appropriate.

RESOURCE ISSUES AND GOALS ESTABLISHED BY THE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Put an improved conservation technology delivery system in place.

- Address technology needs of nutrient management, AFO/CAFO, animal agriculture, grazing lands, ecological site description and forage suitability group development, environmental compliance, Conservation Planning and CNMP Certification, watershed health, and aging watershed infrastructure. ***(These are proposed priority technical task issues pending priority setting by the RLT)***

- Connect with Institutes, Centers, Cooperating Scientists, and other technology providers through the Regional Technology Specialist and RTWG.

- Expects the Regional Technology Work Group to assist the Regional Leadership Team to become more accountable for the delivery of technology and to help the agency maintain credibility as a technology leader.

STRUCTURE OF THE REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY WORK GROUP

The Regional Technology Work Group (RTWG) will utilize a team approach at all levels of the technology delivery system. Direction, guidance, and coordination of all multi-state and regional technology issues will be provided through the RTWG. The RTWG consists of the four State Technology Contacts (as designated by the State Conservationists in each State), the four State Resource Conservationists, the four State Soil Scientists and the four State Engineers for the South Central Region. One State Conservationist will serve as an advisory member of the RTWG to provide management support and input to the decisions of the Work Group. The Regional Technology Specialist serves as Coordinator of the Work Group. The Director of the National Grazing Lands Technology Institute serves as a national liaison to the RTWG, and represents the National Science and Technology Consortium. Additionally, other regional specialists and representatives from other Centers and Institutes may be called upon to serve as liaisons to the RTWG for special activities or needs.

A representative of the Managers from the Plant Materials Centers (PMC's) and Plant Materials Specialists in the South Central Region will participate in annual planning meeting of the RTWG to provide input on assessing regional and State technology needs. The PMC Managers and Specialists will select a representative to the RTWG on a rotating basis to allow each manager the opportunity to participate. The RTWG and Plant Materials Managers are committed to developing and transferring plant science technology. NRCS field offices are the primary customers of plant materials program products. Some Farm Bill programs like CRP, would be difficult to implement without the technology produced by the Plant Materials Program.

The RTWG will establish a schedule for regular teleconferences to discuss ongoing business activities. The RTWG will meet early in the first quarter of each Fiscal Year for the purpose of planning and decision making regarding work group activities and assigning Technical Task Teams to address priority issues identified by the Leadership Team. The RTWG will meet again during mid-year to review accomplishments and re-assess technical task priorities with the RLT as appropriate. The State Technology Contacts will meet in conjunction with the Regional Advisory Board to coordinate and confer on issues and actions that cross the Program and Technology boundaries. Meeting notes regarding significant RTWG issues or decisions will be distributed to all employees in the region through the State Technology Contacts and the Discipline Networks.

The RTWG will annually conduct a needs assessment among field offices for technology transfer and training needs. In addition, the RTWG will solicit field office input on key research and technology needs that can improve the delivery of technical assistance to customers and partners.

DISCIPLINE NETWORKS

The Regional Leadership Team expects the various technical disciplines; i.e., Agronomists, Biologists, GIS Specialists, Range Management Specialists, etc., to establish communication networks for the purpose of conducting regular discussions and interactions. The discipline networks are to be comprised of specialists at the state level and Consortium Specialists, where appropriate, with expertise in a specific technical area. For example, the Agronomy Network should have regular teleconferences that involve key technical specialists within the region, as well as Consortium Specialists with responsibilities on development of RUSLE II, WEPP, and WEPS, etc.

This type of interaction among the State Specialists and Consortium Specialists is critical to the success of the technology re-engineering currently being carried out within NRCS. It is essential that technical specialists from all levels of the organization have regular communication and interaction in order to improve the delivery of technology and support to our field offices. Significant issues and needs that arise in the discipline networks should be forwarded to the RTWG. The RTWG will provide guidance and support to the issues that discipline networks identify. Each Network will have an RTWG sponsor named to be a conduit for delivering and receiving communications.

Each Discipline Network will have a Network Leader who is responsible for scheduling meetings, teleconferences, emails and any other means of communications that provide effective interactions among the Network members. Each Network member is then responsible for assuring that all communications received are delivered to discipline specialist within their State in a timely manner. They are also responsible for relaying all communications from the field office level up through the Network to the RTWG.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY WORK GROUP

- Coordinate technical support needs at the field level.
- Assure that technology is focused toward providing the information and support needed in the field.
- Prioritize field technology and training needs submitted by states.
- Determine if field needs are being met.
- Prioritize requests for specialized technology needs.
- Facilitate the development of technology in the region and nationwide.
- Evaluate technology acquisitions, development, and transfer; and make recommendations to the Regional Leadership Team.

- Manage and monitor technology development needs and training through the system.
- Work with Regional Advisory Board to analyze technology staffing needs in States.
- Recommend research and technology development priorities to NHQ.
- Ensure technical information is reaching states and identify needed corrections.
- Adapt technology for use at the field level that is effective and efficient.
- Address priority technical tasks as assigned by the RLT by organizing the appropriate technical task team and assigning them responsibilities.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE STATE TECHNOLOGY CONTACT

- Ensure field level priority technology needs are being captured and considered in the state level priority setting process.
- Ensure technical information is reaching the field and correct situations where it is not; i.e., structure of and availability of technical specialists.
- Keep Regional Technology Specialist informed of significant technology related issues that need to be considered by RTWG.
- Assess whether technical needs are being met and inform State Conservationists and others, as appropriate.
- Monitor technology and training in the state for adequacy.
- Work with RAB counter part to make technology staffing needs recommendations to the State Conservationist.
- Work with and inform RAB on issues that require both programmatic and technical actions and efforts.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY SPECIALIST

- Ensure that functions of the Regional Technology Work Group are fully implemented.
- Serve as the primary contact to Centers, Institutes, and Cooperating Scientists for technical issues, and facilitate communication between each.

- Provides peer review of technology development and delivery processes and mechanisms of the Regional Technology Work Group.

- Coordinate the development of and implementation of the Regional Technology Action Plan.

- Prepares recommendations to the Regional Leadership Team on technology issues, standards, training, policy, and other significant technology activities.

- Tracks and monitors research development and technology delivery efforts, both within and outside of the region.

- Assures that every effort is made to automate the development and delivery of technology.

- Coordinates activities, develops strategic and business plans, and communicates actions to the Regional Leadership Team, National Division Directors, and the appropriate Deputy Chiefs.

- Communicates technology in the region with adjoining states and regions to assure consistency across boundaries.

- Serves as coordinator of the Regional Technology Work Group.

- Serves as the Liaison between the RTWG and the RAB along with State Technical Contacts.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NATIONAL CONSORTIUM LIAISON

- Provides advice and counsel to the Regional Technology Work Group on emerging technology, technology impacts on programs, technology needs and priorities, and provides technical assistance in the development and delivery of technology.

- Connects the Regional Technology Work Group with the Science and Technology Consortium by providing timely updates and communications.

- Provides relevant input to the Regional Technology Work Group, through the Regional Technology Specialist, concerning technology coordination with NRCS partners, organizations, universities, and agencies with which liaisons have affiliation.

- Provides support and promotes Regional Technology Work Group technology transfer and training process.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE REGIONAL LEADERSHIP ADVISOR

- Represents the Regional Leadership Team and serves as member of the Regional Technology Work Group to provide management support and input to the decisions of the Work Group.
- Provides experience and insight as a Conservation Champion to the Work Group.
- Connects the Regional Technology Work Group with the Regional Leadership Team.
- Helps the Regional Technology Work Group ensure that technology is focused toward providing the information and support needed in the field.
- Assists Regional Technology Work Group to prioritize regional technology needs based on available staffing and resources.
- Works with Leadership Team to identify priority Technical Tasks that the RTWG will be assigned the function of addressing.

RESPONSIBILITES OF THE TECHNICAL TASK SPONSOR

- Provide leadership and direction to the Technical Task Team assigned to the technical issue/need.
- Ensure that project goals and milestones are achieved.
- Assist Technical Task Leader with understanding of expected project results.
- Identify obstacles that might interfere with Technical Task Teams' success or effectiveness and work to reduce them to the extent possible.
- Recommend additional resources or approvals needed by Technical Task Team to carry out its assignment.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TECHNICAL TASK LEADER

- Act as Team Leader to ensure that desired outcomes are achieved and brings dispersed members together to accomplish the task coordination.
- Provide leadership in coordinating and scheduling Technical Task Team activities and schedules.
- Inform Technical Task Sponsor of obstacles or barriers that jeopardize successful completion of the project.

- Inform Technical Task Sponsor of resources or approvals that are needed by Technical Task Team Members to carry out their assignment.

- Prepare progress reports for the RTWG. Monthly verbal reports and quarterly written narratives are to be sent to the Regional Technology Specialist for compilation.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TECHNICAL TASK TEAM MEMBER

- Serve as Technical Task Team Member to achieve action plan goals.

- Coordinate work activities and schedules with Technical Task Leader to achieve goals.

- Inform Technical Task Leader of potential problems that affect the project.

- Inform Technical Task Leader of equipment or supplies that are needed to complete the project.

- Balances the demands of state needs and team activities to accomplish identified priorities.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TECHNICAL DISCIPLINE NETWORKS AND PLANT MATERIALS CENTERS

- Communicate with other State Technical Specialists on current issues and identify opportunities for collaboration that results in more efficient and effective technology delivery in the region.

- Ensure that consistent and compatible technical information is being utilized in the field.

- Identify research and technology development needs among the states.

- Work to eliminate inconsistencies in the implementation of technology and technical processes across state lines.

- Forward information and technology needs to the Regional Technology Work Group.

- Forward information and regional technology needs to leadership within the Consortium.

- Function as a two-way communications mechanism between the RTWG and the Field, including Technical Discipline Specialists.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TECHNICAL DISCIPLINE NETWORK LEADERS

- Each Discipline Network Leader is responsible for scheduling meetings, teleconferences, emails and any other means of communications that provide effective interactions among the Network members.

- Each Network Leader will provide timely summaries of all conference calls, meetings or other communications or actions that the Network is involved in to the Regional Technology Specialist via email or voice com.

- Each Network Leader will prepare a brief written report (one page maximum) of the Networks activities throughout the year, at the end of each fiscal year and present it to the RTWG through the Networks RTWG Sponsor.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE TECHNICAL DISCIPLINE NETWORK MEMBERS

- Represent their technical discipline for the state and engage in regional technical discipline leadership activities.

- Identify issues that need to be coordinated and carryout regional discipline interaction.

- Provides solutions and recommendations that accomplish a consistent and improved technology delivery system within and across state lines and geo-political boundaries.

- Be accountable to take the initiative to address technology issues that affect the delivery of technical assistance within their State and the region.

- Work to accomplish the effective transfer of technology and training to improve the delivery of technical assistance to NRCS customers.

- Provide information about significant technology issues to the Network Leader.

- Establish line of communication and effective working relationships with technical specialists in the Consortium to resolve technological issues in the region.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CONSORTIUM TECHNICAL NETWORK ADVISORS

- Actively participate in the discipline networks and assist states with technology transfer and training activities and issues

- Provide solutions and recommendations to technology issues that confront the regional discipline networks.

- Forward information and regional technology needs to leadership within the Consortium.

SOUTH CENTRAL TECHNOLOGY DIRECTORY

REGIONAL TECHNOLOGY WORK GROUP

- Jim Caudle – Arkansas
- Charles Fultz – Arkansas
- Tony Stevenson - Arkansas
- Steve Carmichael – Louisiana
- Jerry Daigle – Louisiana
- Ed Giering - Louisiana
- Randy Freeland – Oklahoma
- Jimmy Ford – Oklahoma
- Johnny Green – Oklahoma
- Norman Bade – Texas
- Mike Golden - Texas
- John Mueller - Texas
- James Bunch, Regional Technology Specialist – South Central Regional Office
- Dennis Thompson, Acting – National Consortium Liaison, National Grazing Land Technology Institute
- David Brauer, USDA Agricultural Research Service Liaison
- Don Gohmert, State Conservationist, Louisiana – Regional Leadership Advisor

STATE TECHNOLOGY CONTACTS

- Jim Caudle – Arkansas
- Jerry Daigle - Louisiana
- Johnny Green - Oklahoma
- Norman Bade – Texas

TECHNICAL TASK TEAM SPONSORS

- Ecological Site Descriptions and Forage Suitability Group Descriptions – (to be determined by RTWG)
- AFO/CAFO laws and regulations - (to be determined by RTWG)
- Conservation Planning Certification Processes – (to be determined by RTWG)
- Updates to Technical Standards in FOTG as appropriate – (to be determined by RTWG)
- Environmental Compliance – (to be determined by RTWG)

Additional Technical Tasks will be addressed as identified and assigned by the Leadership Team.

TECHNICAL TASK TEAM MEMBERS

(all Technical Task Teams will be developed by the RTWG as soon as possible)

DISCIPLINE NETWORK LEADERS

- Agronomy Network – Richard Aycock, Louisiana
- Biology Network – Paul Brady, Arkansas
- Plant Materials Network – James Alderson – Texas

- Engineering Construction Network – Randy Busbea – Arkansas
- Economics Network – Ted Kuntz – Oklahoma
- Design and Soil Mechanics Network – Don Gilmore – Texas
- Environmental Engineering Network – (vacant)
- Forestry Network – Nancy Young – Arkansas
- Geology Network – Glenn Miller – Oklahoma
- GIS Network – Jim Henley – Oklahoma
- Grazing Lands Network – Mark Mosely – Oklahoma
- Hydrology Network – John Jurgensen – Louisiana
- Information Technology (IRM) Network - Beverly Minica – Texas
- Soils Network – Mike Risinger - Texas
- Water Management Network – Jerry Walker - Texas

DISCIPLINE NETWORK MEMBERS

Agronomy Network

Bobby Bradley – Arkansas
Richard Aycock – Louisiana
Ken Matlock – Oklahoma
Monty Dollar – Texas
Jerry Lemunyon – Advisor
Norman Bade – RTWG Sponsor

Biology Network

Paul Brady – Arkansas
Steve Tully - Oklahoma
Michael Nichols – Louisiana
Gary Valentine - Texas
Jim Caudle – RTWG Sponsor

Construction Network

Randy Busbea – Arkansas
Bradley Sticker – Louisiana
Joe Freeland – Oklahoma
Tom Beach – Texas
Don Shanklin – Advisor
Dennis Medlin – RTWG Sponsor

Economics Network

Belinda Bell – Arkansas
Aaron Hinkston – Louisiana
Ted Kuntz – Oklahoma
James Featherston – Texas
Dale Pekar – Advisor
Norman Bade – RTWG Sponsor

Design and Soil Mechanics Network

Tony Stevenson – Arkansas
Cherie LaFleur – Louisiana
Arvil Bass – Oklahoma
Trent Street – Texas
Danny McCook - Advisor
Ed Giering – RTWG Sponsor

Environmental Engineering Network

Wavey Austin – Arkansas
Wayne Talbot – Louisiana
Darren Hickman – Oklahoma
Jerry Walker – Texas
David Moffitt – Advisor
Johnny Green – RTWG Sponsor

Forestry Network

Nancy Young – Arkansas
Terry Carlson – Louisiana
Mike Barrick – Oklahoma
Ray Stoner – Texas
Jim Caudle – RTWG Sponsor

Geology Network

Roy Crutchfield – Arkansas	Ed Giering – Louisiana
Glen Miller – Oklahoma	Dave Petefish – Texas
(vacant) – Advisor	(vacant) – RTWG Sponsor

GIS Network

Marcella Callahan – Arkansas	vacant – Louisiana
Jim Henley – Oklahoma	Dennis Williamson – Texas
Javier Ruiz - Advisor	Jim Ford – RTWG Sponsor

Grazing Lands Network

(vacant) – Arkansas	Kevin Blomquist – Louisiana
Mark Mosely – Oklahoma	Homer Sanchez – Texas
Dan Caudle – Advisor	Randy Freeland – RTWG Sponsor

Hydrology Network

Doug Hines – Arkansas	John Jurgensen – Louisiana
Gary Utley – Oklahoma	Tony Funderburk – Texas
Thomas Garday – Advisor	(vacant) – RTWG Sponsor

IRM Network

Joe McKeown – Arkansas	Frank Ramsey – Louisiana
Harold Kane – Oklahoma	Beverly Minica – Texas
(vacant) - Advisor	(vacant) RTWG Sponsor

Plant Materials Network

Randy King – Arkansas
Mark Moseley – Oklahoma
(vacant) – Advisor
Scott Edwards – Louisiana
James Alderson – Texas
Randy Freeland – RTWG Sponsor

Soils Network

Jeanette Bradley – Arkansas
Chuck Sample – Oklahoma
(vacant) – Advisor
Charles Guillory – Louisiana
Mike Risinger – Texas
Jerry Daigle – RTWG Sponsor

Water Management Network

(vacant) – Arkansas
J. Chris Stoner – Oklahoma
(vacant) – Advisor
Bradley Sticker – Louisiana
Jerry Walker – Texas
(vacant) – RTWG Sponsor

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Consortium – National Science and Technology Consortium consists of employees in the various Institutes and Center, as well as Cooperating Scientists at other locations.

Consortium Scientist - **–** The technical person at NHQ responsible for coordinating the science and technology transfer process on a nation-wide basis to ensure delivery of state-of-the-art technical services to NRCS employees and its customers.

Discipline Networks – A group of technical specialists within the structure of the Regional Technology Work Group who regularly communicate and coordinate ongoing technical issues and implementation plans; i.e., RUSLE II, Cultural Resources, GIS and Customer Service Toolkit, Wetlands Models, etc.

National Consortium Liaison – One representative of the National Consortium provides advice and counsel to the Regional Technology Work Group on emerging technology, technology impacts on programs, technology needs and priorities, and provides technical assistance in the development and delivery of technology.

Consortium Technical Specialists – Those persons within the Centers and Institutes with certain technical disciplines who have responsibilities for specific technical subject areas, such as Agronomy, Water Quality, Grazing Lands, Nutrient Management, GIS, etc.

National Technology Transfer and Training Working Group (TTWG) – An ad hoc working group consisting of the Regional Technology Specialists, Science and Technology Consortium Directors, National Headquarters Division Directors, and the Director of the National Employee Development Center (NEDC).

Plant Materials Manager – Operational managers at the Plant Materials Centers (PMC's)who are responsible for the development and propagation of important plant species to support the agency's conservation activities, as well as those of other partners and Tribes. PMC's offices are responsible for providing technical services to specified groups of states throughout the nation.

Regional Leadership Advisor – One State Conservationist representing the Regional Leadership Team, serves the Technology Work Group as an advisory member to provide management support and input to the decisions of the Work Group.

Regional Leadership Team (RLT) – Regional Conservationist and State Conservationists group for each region.

Regional Technology Specialist (RTS) – The technical expertise responsible for managing the science and technology transfer process on a regional basis to ensure delivery of state-of-the-art technical services to NRCS employees and its customers.

Regional Technology Work Group (RTWG) – The Regional Technology Specialist, a State Technology Contact from each state in the region, a core discipline representative for each state (resource conservationist, soils and engineering), a liaison from the Centers and Institutes, and a State Conservationist as an advisor for the group.

State Technical Specialist – The person responsible for providing leadership and expertise in specific technical discipline areas; i.e., Agronomy, Biology, Engineering, GIS, Range Management, etc.

State Technology Contact – The contact person responsible for ensuring that field level priority technology needs are being captured and considered in the state level priority setting process. Keeps Regional Technology Specialist informed of significant technology related issues that need to be considered by Regional Technology Work Group.

Soils MO Office Leader – Individuals responsible for assisting the Leadership Team with Soil Science, Soil Survey and NRI activities in region to support the agency's conservation activities. MO offices are responsible for providing technical services to specified groups of states throughout the nation.

Technical Task Leader – Functions as Technical Task Team Leader to ensure that desired outcomes are achieved and coordinates team activities and scheduling.

Technical Task Sponsor –The person responsible for providing leadership and direction to the Technical Task Team and ensures that the project goals and milestones are achieved.

Technical Task Team Member – Works on Technology Action Plan projects to complete assigned tasks and cooperates on the delivery of technology in the region.

Technology - Technology can be defined as the tools needed to support our efforts to protect and support SWAPA+H as they function in the ecosystem. Technology can include new and basic research, new methodologies, field trials supported by follow-up and reports, training, and new or existing equipment.